

1 Nov 2011

Members of the committee:

I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to be heard this afternoon.

I am the Assistant Director of Research of Michigan Open Carry. We are an organization, founded in the Spring of 2009, that promotes and educates the public about the lawful open carry of handguns. We currently have in excess of 250 dues paying members and hundreds of other supportive activists throughout the State.

Let me start by asking each of you, "Who do you serve"? Do you serve the law abiding, tax paying citizens of Michigan or a lobbying coalition made up of county governments?

Currently, some citizens are punished by poor processes in certain counties. They have a hard time getting a CPL or face long delays not because they aren't qualified or have questionable backgrounds but rather because they have the misfortune of living in a county where the county clerk's office and County Gun Board are in need of more efficient operations. Perhaps worse yet, they live in a county where the local government for whatever reason has an anti-gun mentality to the point that they belligerently disregard existing Michigan "Shall-Issue" Law relating to issuing CPLs. These respectable citizens of Michigan deserve other options.

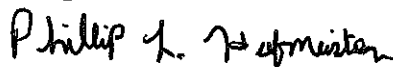
SB 59 will improve service to the law abiding, tax paying citizens of Michigan. During a time when local revenues are being cut and police forces are being reduced, SB 59 enables law abiding citizens efficient access to acquire a CPL so they may better protect themselves and their loved ones whether they are at home or out grocery shopping. It also rewards county governments that have an efficient yet thorough operation for issuing CPLs while also providing incentives to those county governments that are lagging behind to improve their own operations. It enables efficient county governments that are utilizing **best practices** to flourish.

Michigan Open Carry is proud to offer its support of SB 59 in its current form and we look forward to the day it is signed into law by the Governor.

Again let me ask you, "who do you serve"?

Thank you again for your time.

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